



Firearms Act 1968

1968 CHAPTER 27

PART IV **E+W+S**

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

[^{F1}57A Exception for airsoft guns **E+W+S**

- (1) An “airsoft gun” is not to be regarded as a firearm for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) An “airsoft gun” is a barrelled weapon of any description which—
 - (a) is designed to discharge only a small plastic missile (whether or not it is also capable of discharging any other kind of missile), and
 - (b) is not capable of discharging a missile (of any kind) with kinetic energy at the muzzle of the weapon that exceeds the permitted level.
- (3) “Small plastic missile” means a missile that—
 - (a) is made wholly or partly from plastics,
 - (b) is spherical, and
 - (c) does not exceed 8 millimetres in diameter.
- (4) The permitted kinetic energy level is—
 - (a) in the case of a weapon which is capable of discharging two or more missiles successively without repeated pressure on the trigger, 1.3 joules;
 - (b) in any other case, 2.5 joules.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** [S. 57A](#) inserted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 2.5.2017 in so far as not already in force) by [Policing and Crime Act 2017 \(c. 3\)](#), [ss. 125\(5\)](#), [183\(1\)\(5\)\(e\)](#); [S.I. 2017/399](#), [reg. 4\(b\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

Firearms Act 1968, Section 57A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act amended by [1997 c. 5 s. 12\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 12 was repealed (17.12.1997) by 1997 c. 64, s. 2(7), Sch.; S.I. 1997/3114, art. 3, Sch. Pt. I)
- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 34](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 3A inserted by [2023 c. 49 s. 2](#)
- s. 11(3A)-(4A) substituted for s. 11(4) by [2023 c. 49 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 51(2A) added by [1997 c. 48 s. 62\(1\)Sch. 1 para. 3](#)